

**U.S. Department of
Homeland Security**

**United States
Coast Guard**



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16450
December 12, 2018

California Coastal Commission
45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94105
Attn: Ms. Alison Detmer

Dear Ms. Detmer:

The Region IX Regional Response Team (RRT IX) recently updated the 2008 Dispersant Use Plan (DUP) for California. The 2018 update reflects substantial streamlining and reformatting of the 2008 plan. The DUP is required by the National Contingency Plan, [40CFR300.115(i)(6)].

There are no changes to underlying dispersant policies, such as types and description of dispersant use zones, the roles and authorities of the decision-making agencies, or to our understanding of the key species and ecosystems at risk to oil spills and to any subsequent decision to use dispersants. Updates do include many new elements that considerably improve the utility of the plan, and further informs how we can best manage our shared responsibility to protect species and habitats within the coastal zone that may be threatened by oil spills.

A summary of key changes to the plan are detailed on pg. 4 of enclosure (1). These changes include the results of consultations with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) per Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973. They are also a result of plan evaluation through the National Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (NPREP), which meets the intent of section 4202(a) of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA90).

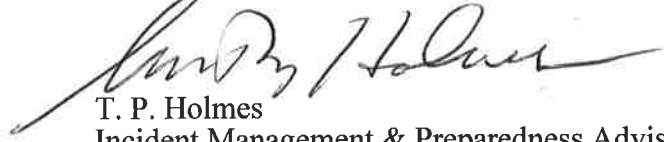
Significant public outreach on the draft DUP was completed through the five coastal Area Committees in California. Notification for each Area Committee meeting was extended to numerous federal, state and local stakeholders, as well as to environmental groups and tribes in each Area Committee zone. A list of meeting notification distribution is available upon request.

The changes to the DUP, as well as the significant outreach efforts to the public, have provided significant improvements to the plan, offered an opportunity to address comments within the draft final DUP, and most importantly assures even greater protection of coastal resources in the event of an oil spill. For these reasons RRT IX believes the updated plan qualifies for a negative determination

If you desire additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (510) 437-2949 or timothy.p.holmes@uscg.mil.

16450
December 12, 2018

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. P. Holmes", written over a horizontal line.

T. P. Holmes
Incident Management & Preparedness Advisor
Cochair, Regional Response Team IX
U.S. Coast Guard
By direction

Enclosure: (1) RRT IX Dispersant Use Plan for California – 2018 draft

Copy: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region IX